

INFORMATION ~~SECRET~~ REPORT**CONFIDENTIAL**

COUNTRY Yugoslavia/USSR

DATE DISTR. 6 November 1948

SUBJECT Break Between Tito and the Soviet Union

NO. OF PAGES 1

25X1C

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1. The conflict between Tito and the Cominform had its beginning as early as July 1947 when Soviet Marshal Tolbukhin presented demands to the Yugoslav Government to give up the following naval bases to Soviet command: Pola, Sibenik and Boka Kotorska. Yugoslav authorities were asked to completely renounce their jurisdiction over these ports. Tolbukhin further requested that the Soviets be given the right to build up the harbor of Metkovic (Ploce) with Yugoslav means and Yugoslav labor.
2. These demands were repeated at the beginning of 1948 but Tito refused Tolbukhin's demands on the basis of other differences of opinion with the Soviets concerning economic cooperation and military development of the Yugoslav Army. Tito disagreed with the Soviet standpoint that special emphasis be placed on infantry troops, and therewith accused the Soviets of wishing to discontinue deliveries of motorized weapons. Furthermore Tito felt that his personal security would be threatened if he permitted the Russians to command strongholds, over which he would have no control.

Document No. 06

NO CHANGE in Class.

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S 0

DDA Memo. 4 Apr 77

Auth. DDA REG 72-1193

Date: 02/03/78 By: 029

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